

Governments Lobby U.S. in Reverse

By Jack Anderson

Foreign governments in quest of U.S. benefits now use reverse lobbying. Instead of calling upon Congress, they bring the congressmen to them.

Just last January, for example, Sen. Vance Hartke (D-Ind.), accompanied by his wife, his daughter and two aides, breezed through five countries in about three weeks. In each of the countries he visited, at least part of Hartke's expenses were picked up by the host government.

State Department cables reveal that in Iran, for instance, the government "informed (Hartke) that he will be the guest of (Iran) and that they will arrange program including hotel reservations and transportation."

The Pakistani government, according to the cables, provided Hartke with "hotel reservations, car and driver and transportation from Karachi to Islamabad and return."

In Ceylon, "Senator and Mrs. Hartke and daughter will be guests of (the government) with hotel, travel expenses paid." In Indonesia, the senator was a "guest of parliament." And in New Zealand, he was also a government guest.

For spending money, according to the cables, the various U.S. embassies provided Hartke with an additional \$75 a day in local currencies.

Not only members of Congress but their staff assistants have been gallivanting around the globe at the expense of foreign governments. On April 13, for instance, a dozen congressional aides are to arrive in Taiwan for a vacation financed by Nationalist China.

The State Department cabled the U.S. embassy in Taipei requesting PX cards for the junketing aides "if embassy in position to issue them." The embassy replied that the aides would need "official passports" or "we will be in the rather uncomfortable position of being unable to obtain PX cards for some."

The senior staff member, Ralph Vandervort of the Senate Space Committee, told us the trip was "kind of a public relations thing" on the part of the Chiang Kai-shek government.

The few thousand dollars old Chiang spends to woo U.S. officials, judging by past performance, is money well spent. In the past four years he has collected \$373.7 million in U.S. military aid.

The South Vietnamese government has done far better, having wangled over \$1 billion in arms aid in 1973. Now the Nixon administration has requested another \$474 million in "emergency funds" for the Saigon regime.

Even as the request is pending before Congress, State Department cables reveal that the

Saigon government has invited eight key congressional staff members to visit South Vietnam to view "present realities."

Footnote: Congressmen and their aides who accept free trips abroad from foreign governments may be in violation of the Constitution, which forbids U.S. officials from accepting any "emolument . . . of any kind whatever, from any king, prince or foreign state."

BACKROOM POLITICS—President Nixon's wily Watergate attorney, James D. St. Clair, has thrown the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment inquiry into a tizzy by demanding the right to cross-examine and even subpoena witnesses.

The impeachment investigation, like a grand jury probe, is merely supposed to determine whether charges should be brought against the President. It would take a two-thirds vote of the Senate to convict him.

Defense attorneys normally don't participate in grand jury proceedings. But committee Republicans desperately want St. Clair to be involved in the impeachment investigation. With the President's counsel present, they would be relieved of the burden of defending Mr. Nixon.

Indeed, the Republicans feel so strongly that they voted 12 to 0 behind closed doors to reject the advice of their own top lawyer, Albert Jenner, who had argued against St. Clair's participation.

Committee Democrats, however, fear that St. Clair's celebrated courtroom skills could interfere with the impeachment inquiry. Chairman Peter Rodino (D-N.J.) has emphasized that the probe "is not an adversary proceeding."

In an earlier column, we reported that Jenner is being undercut by the committee's No. 2 Republican lawyer, Sam Garrison, who is working behind the scenes to obstruct the impeachment investigation.

Many observers believe Jenner, a distinguished Chicago attorney, was hired to take the Watergate onus off the Republicans. His experience and integrity, it was thought, would serve as the excuse for Republicans to move away from the President.

Instead, our sources say, the senior Republicans, Rep. Edward Hutchinson (R-Mich.), has bypassed Jenner and given real authority over the GOP staff to Garrison.

Both Jenner and chief counsel John Doar have tried to maintain lines of communication between the Democratic and Republican staffs. But Garrison has blocked the goal of an integrated staff. He has refused to work on any of the fact-finding task forces, and confines himself instead to strictly partisan efforts. He is now hard at work drafting a partisan brief on the St. Clair issue.

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